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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(Release on receipt)

SUBJECT: "More News On Fats and Oils"...Information from the Office of Marketing Services, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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Here's one to try on your next door neighbor. What ingredient do these 3 household products have in common? Soap, shortening and linoleum! Fats and oils is the answer, of course. An easy one to be sure, because you've been well aware for the past few months of the limited supply of these essential goods especially soaps and cooking fats.

But here's a bit of good news. After October first the prospects of finding soap on your grocer's shelf will be better. Soap manufacturers may increase their production quota by 4 percent. Their quota you know, is based on the amount of soap they manufactured during the same month of the base period. Their "base period" means the calendar years of 1940 and 1941. So, gradually, as normal trade is resumed and fats can be imported from the Pacific, our soap supply will cease to be a subject of conversation. Right now, the increase is due to lighter military needs for soap.

The improvement in the supply of shortening, cooking and salad oils is even better than that for soap. The quota jumps from 79 percent of the base period average to 88 percent. This increase will put a few more bottles, jars and packages on the cooking fat shelf. However, you'll continue to need your ration books when you shop for fats and oils. They aren't yet sufficiently plentiful to take off the ration list.

The third group of manufacturers affected by this improvement in the fats and oils situation are those who make paints and varnish, floor coverings such as linoleum, and other similar supplies.

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If you've been waiting to refurnish your house you'll be glad to know that the quota of fats and oils for these products has been raised from 45 to 75 percent.

Although you can enjoy this further indication that our world is shaping up into a peacetime design, it's well to keep in mind that fats and oils continue to be scarce. Our pre-war imports from the Far East can't be duplicated for many months. And our increased domestic supply of flaxseed, which is partially responsible for improving the present situation, won't satisfy all our needs for fats and oils. In addition to our own wants, we must keep in mind that the liberated countries have been without sufficient fats for about 4 years now. We should help to make it possible for those people to get a share of the world's fats and oils.

You will have an opportunity to buy more meats this fall, which means you will likely have more fats to salvage. Waste fats from your kitchen are wanted, and wanted badly. So keep up the good habit of scraping all the fat you don't want to use again into your handy container. And remember to strain the fat. Onions and other foreign matter won't help make more fat. They only make trouble.

When the can is full take it to your butcher. He will pay you 4 cents and 2 red points a pound for salvaged fats.

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